
APRIL 4, 1806.

Read the first and second time, and committed to the committee of the whole House,
on Monday next.

THE committee, to whom was referred a resolution of the 29th March, 1806, have, according to order, had the same under consideration, and beg leave to offer the following bill, as their report:

A Bill,

Concerning the further safeguard of merchant vessels in the vicinity
of the United States.



1 *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the*
2 *United States of America, in congress assembled,* That it shall be
3 lawful for the president of the United States, whenever he shall
4 deem it expedient, to prohibit the exercise of hostilities against
5 merchant vessels in any of the roads, or places of anchorage, near
6 the ports or harbours of the United States, and also in any of the
7 tracts of sea within the principal head lands on the coasts of the
8 United States, and to require all foreign armed ships, or vessels,
9 of whatever description, to abstain from cruising, annoying, or
10 molesting, any merchant vessels, within any of the spaces and pre-
11 cincts aforesaid.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the
2 president of the United States, at his discretion, to instruct the
3 commanders of any of the public ships, or vessels, in the actual
4 service of the United States, to succour and protect, against all
5 hostilities, such merchant vessels as may be within any of the
6 aforesaid spaces, or precincts, and also to rescue such as shall have
7 been seized within the same; and further, to succour, protect, or
8 rescue, as the case may require, any vessel bound for the United
9 States, and placed under the inspection of an officer of the United
10 States on board the same, as prescribed by any law relative to the
11 collection of revenue.